

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 00392 221522Z

56

ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIA-06 /022 W
----- 099938

P R 221320Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6342

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCON ZAGREB

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STATE FOR CU/ARTS, USIA FOR IEU; BELGRADE/ZAGREB FOR USIS;
BUDAPEST, PRAGUE, SOFIA, WARSAW FOR P&C

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC RO

SUBJECT: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS: LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

REF: BUCHAREST 0360, WARSAW 0387

1. I MEETING AT CSCE YESTERDAY, ILEASA CONFIRMED TO CAO THAT COUNCIL HAD INDEED NIXED ARIA BUDGET ITEM FOR LAPO INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT FOR TWO REASONS: (A) UNPRECEDENTED NATURE OF ARRANGEMENT AND (B) FACT ARIA WOULD LOSE MONEY ON DEAL. IN SUPPORT, ILEASA CITED LONG LIST OF FOREIGN PRESENTATIONS FOR WHICH SENDING COUNTRY ALWAYS PROVIDED EXTERNAL TRANSPORTATION. ILEASA ARGUED, IN EFFECT, THAT GOR DELIGHTED TO HAVE LAPO (PEOPLE STILL TALK ABOUT ORCHESTRA'S LAST APPEARANCE IN 1967) AND WILLING TO BEAR FAIR SHARE OF COSTS, BUT WHY SHOULD ROMANIANS HAVE TO SUBSIDIZE WHAT AFTER ALL IS "CULTURAL PROPAGANDA". COMMENT: EMBASSY CAN'T CONFIRM WHETHER TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENT ALTOGETHER WITHOUT PRECEDENT, BUT IT IS UNUSUAL ENOUGH TO JUSTIFY SOME COMPLAINT ON THIS SCORE. EMBASSY'S REPEATED CONTENTION THAT TRANSPORT COSTS

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PAGE 02 BUCAR 00392 221522Z

ARE SIMPLY IN LIEU OF HONORARIUM, WHICH WOULD BE EVEN HIGHER

FOR TWO CONCERTS, SEEMS TO FALL ON DEAF EARS. EMBASSY HAS ALREADY COMMENTED ON PROBABILITY ARIA WILL BE IN THE RED ON LAPO (SEE BUCHAREST REFTEL). THESE AND OTHER NEGOTIATIONS THIS MONTH INDICATE ARIA MAY HAVE SUFFERED OVERALL 1976 BUDGET CUT FOR FOREIGN CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS AND ALMOST CERTAINLY HAS HAD SEVERER RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON EXPENDITURE OF HARD CURRENCIES. (BRITISH EMBASSY AGREES).

2. CAO REITERATED ARGUMENTS IN BUCHAREST REFTEL TO EMPHASIZE AT COUNCIL LEVEL THE IMPORTANCE USG AND EMBASSY ATTACH TO LAPO APPEARANCE HERE. ILEASA GOT MESSAGE AND PROMISED TO REOPEN CASE IMMEDIATELY AND REPORT FINAL DECISION JANUARY 25.

3. EVEN IF COUNCIL DELIVERS FAVORABLE REPLY ON TIME, FURTHER ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH ARIA, PANAM AND TAROM MAY BE REQUIRED TO NAIL DECISION DOWN. SO STILL APPRECIATE FEW DAYS GRACE REQUESTED IN REFTEL.

4. DECLASSIFY UPON RECEIPT.
BARNES

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